

CLAIMS

1. A wheel rim comprising:
 - (a) a circular band; and
 - (b) a track located on the circular band capable of being
- 5 operatively coupled to an end of a spoke.
2. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the track is capable of being operatively coupled to respective ends of at least two spokes.
3. The wheel rim of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the end(s) of the spoke(s) are capable of sliding relative to the track.
- 10 4. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein the track comprises a groove capable of receiving and retaining a carriage operatively coupled to an end of the spoke(s).
5. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein the carriage is operatively coupled to a threaded end of the spoke(s).
- 15 6. The wheel rim of claim 5 wherein the carriage comprises a spoke nipple.
7. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein the carriage is operatively coupled to a non-threaded end of the spoke(s).
8. The wheel rim of claim 7 wherein the non-threaded end of the
- 20 spoke(s) comprises a hook or flat head.
9. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein the track comprises a bar adapted to retain the end of the spoke(s).
10. The wheel rim of claim 9 wherein the bar is adapted to retain a hook end of the spoke(s).

11. The wheel rim of claim 5 wherein the carriage is operatively coupled to a spoke nipple.
12. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein the track comprises an outward extension capable of operatively coupling to a carriage.
- 5 13. The wheel rim of claim 12 wherein outward extension comprises a T-shape capable of mating with the carriage.
14. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the track is located on an inner surface of the circular band.
15. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the track
10 comprises at least one channel located on each of two opposed side surfaces of the circular band.
16. The wheel rim of claim 4 or claim 11 comprising a plurality of carriages.
17. The wheel rim of claim 16 comprising a spacer carriage
15 locatable on the track between adjacent carriages operatively coupled to a spoke nipple.
18. The wheel rim of claim 16 wherein the plurality of carriages are operatively coupled to a strip.
19. The wheel rim of claim 18 wherein the plurality of carriages are
20 operatively coupled to the strip by an adhesive.
20. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the circular band comprises a single track.
21. The wheel rim of claim 20 wherein the single track extends substantially along an entire length of the circular band.

22. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the circular band comprises a plurality of tracks.
23. The wheel rim of claim 22 comprising at least two tracks.
24. The wheel rim of claim 23 comprising at least three tracks.
- 5 25. The wheel rim of claim 24 comprising at least four tracks.
26. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the track comprises at least one open end capable of receiving a carriage.
27. The wheel rim of claim 26 wherein the track comprises two open ends each capable of receiving a carriage.
- 10 28. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 to 27 wherein the circular band comprises a channel located on an outer surface adapted to retain a tire.
29. The wheel rim of claim 28 wherein the tire is capable of retaining an inner tube.
- 15 30. The wheel rim of claim 28 wherein the tire comprises a tubeless tire.
31. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 to 30 wherein the wheel rim comprises a bicycle wheel rim.
32. A wheel comprising:
- 20 (1) a rim comprising:
- (i) a circular band; and
 - (ii) a track located on the circular band;
- (2) a plurality of spokes operatively coupled to the track and extending inwardly from the rim; and

(3) a hub located central of the wheel and operatively coupled to the rim by said plurality of spokes.

33. The wheel of claim 32 further comprising a tire located on the outer surface of the rim.

5 34. The wheel of claim 33 wherein the wheel further comprises an inner tube located within the tire.

35. The wheel of claim 33 wherein the tire comprises a tubeless tire.

36. A carriage comprising a collar adapted to retain a spoke nipple,
10 wherein the spoke nipple is rotatable within the collar and the carriage is insertable within a track located on a rim of a wheel.

37. A method for operatively coupling a plurality of spokes to a wheel rim, including the step of operatively coupling ends of a plurality of spokes to a track located on an inner surface of a circular band of the rim,
15 wherein the end of the spokes when operatively coupled to the track are slidable relative thereto.

38. The method of claim 37 further including the step of operatively coupling the spoke to the carriage via a spoke nipple and operatively coupling the carriage to the track.

20 39. The method of claim 38 further including the step of attaching one or more spacer carriages to the track between adjacent carriages.

40. The method of claim 38 or claim 39 further including the step of attaching an opposite end of the spoke not attached to the carriage to a hub.

41. A kit for constructing a wheel rim comprising:

(a) a rim comprising at least one track; and

(b) a plurality of spoke carriages locatable on the track and capable of being operatively coupled to a spoke.

42. The kit of claim 41 further comprising a plurality of spacer
5 carriages locatable on the track between adjacent spoke carriages.

43. The kit of claim 41 or claim 42 further comprising a plurality of spokes respectively capable of being operatively coupled to one or more spoke carriage(s) and a hub.

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10 VELOCITY BICYCLE ACCESSORIES PTY LTD

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